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Capital Chatter

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WASHINGTON. — THE JO QUARTER given both the Rockefeller and Goldwater forces is giving GOP peacemakers a workout.

They had to step in recently when the skirmishing threatened to disrupt the national committee's task force on winning the big city vote.

Jud Morhouse, New York national committeeman and Rockefeller's chief strategist, seemed more intent on blowing Goldwater out of the water than on other duties as the meeting opened. He had released in advance a paper taking Goldwater to task for saying that Republicans ought to quit trying to win the Negro vote because it can't be done.

Even the neutralists on the task force were miffed at the premature release of Morhouse's paper. They figured they should have had a chance to see it first. They were even more miffed when the paper was presented to them during the two-day meeting.

Subsequently, the task force passed a resolution setting up a "gag" rule. All papers and comments in the future were to be released only through the National Chairman or the task force chairman. It was a slap on the wrist for Morhouse.

Also slapped down was a Morhouse move to have the task force hold meetings in all the major cities. Its purpose was to give local organizations advice and to ferret out their past errors. The neutralists combined with the Goldwater forces in opposition on the theory that such meetings could only lead to bickering and division in the party.

SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY collected an extra dividend from his 1959 trip to Russia. That was the one that resulted in an eight-hour conversation between the Minnesotan and Red boss Khrushchev. It also apparently made a matinee idol, Mos-

cow-style, of the Senator. When a quartet of touring Russian professional women was introduced to Hubert last week at the Senate, he admired a lapel pin worn by Mrs. Alla Shiskova. "Da," said Mrs. Shiskova, who promptly took off the pin and gave it to the senator.

YOUNG, PROGRESSIVE REPUBLICAN members of the House of Representatives are growing restive under the iron rule of Minority Leader Charles Halleck. He insists on doing all the talking for the GOP, and the younger members resent it. With Halleck as the chief spokesman, the party appears to lack vigor and energy in comparison to the New Frontier. The congressmen complain. They are searching for a way to spring some of their younger, more attractive members into the limelight.

JUST OFF THE MAIN, WORKING LOBBY of the White House is a big conference room known as the Fish Room. It was so named by the White House staff during Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration because it contained a big glass water tank full of goldfish. The fish remained throughout the Truman administration but disappeared during the Eisenhower administration.

Now the Fish Room has fish in it again — a huge mounted sailfish caught off Acapulco, Mexico, several years ago by John F. Kennedy.

THE MOST MYSTERIOUS GOVERNMENT bureau in town, as is well known, is the cloak-and-dagger Central Intelligence Agency. It's so hedged about with secrecy that CIA employees are instructed to answer questions about where they work by saying simply, "in the government." The Congressional Directory, which lists scores of officials of all other major agencies, identifies only CIA's director, Allen W. Dulles, and his deputy, Gen. C. P. Cabell. CIA's budget is a secret, its size is a secret, and so is most of its work.

Last week a new CIA mystery arose, in a driving rainstorm on Tuesday, a horse and rider patrolling the brick walk in front of Dulles' Georgetown home. The rider wore a cloak but it was possible to tell whether he also carried a tiger.